

PTO/SB/45 (03-09)

Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**MAINTENANCE FEE TRANSMITTAL FORM****(Do not submit this form electronically via EFS-Web)**

Address to:  
 Director of the United States  
 Patent and Trademark Office  
 Attn: Maintenance Fee  
 2051 Jamieson Avenue, Suite 300  
 Alexandria, VA 22314

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Attn: Maintenance Fee, 2051 Jamieson Avenue, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314" on \_\_\_\_\_.

- OR -

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Fax to: 571-273-6500

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed herewith is the payment of the maintenance fee(s) for the listed patent(s).

- ☐ A check for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the full payment of the maintenance fee(s) and any necessary surcharge is enclosed.
- ☒ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is enclosed.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the payment of the fee(s) indicated below to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_.

\* Information required by 37 CFR 1.366(c) (columns 1 &amp; 2). Information requested under 37 CFR 1.366(d) (columns 3, 4, &amp; 5).

Item	Patent Number* Column 1	U.S. Application Number* [e.g., 06/555,555] Column 2	Maintenance Fee Amount (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g)) Column 3	Surcharge Amount (37 CFR 1.20(h)) Column 4	Payment Year (select one below) Column 5	
					07/16/2009 3.5 yrs	07/16/2012 7.5 yrs
1	6989997	10603097	\$490		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	490.00 DP
2						
3						
4						
5						
Subtotals: Columns 3 & 4			\$490			
Total Payment			\$490		<input type="checkbox"/> additional sheets attached for listing additional patents.	

**WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on Form PTO-2038.

Respectfully submitted, \*\*

Customer's Signature

*Mark S. Coburn*

Customer's Name Mark S. Coburn

Registration Number, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (540) 951-9378

Fax: (540) 951-5292

Note: All correspondence will be forwarded to the "Fee Address" or to the "Correspondence Address" if no "Fee Address" has been provided. See 37 CFR 1.363.

Payment of small entity fee is appropriate if small entity status still exists, see 37 CFR 1.27(g). To establish small entity status or to change status from small to large entity, a written assertion is required. See 37 CFR 1.27 and 1.33(b).

\*\* WHERE MAINTENANCE FEE PAYMENTS ARE TO BE MADE BY AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE A DEPOSIT ACCOUNT, BOTH THE NAME AND SIGNATURE OF AN AUTHORIZED USER ARE REQUIRED.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.366. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 5 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Attn: Maintenance Fee, 2051 Jamieson Avenue, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

**VIRGINIA TECH  
INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTIES**

VIA FAX (571) 273-6500

July 14, 2009

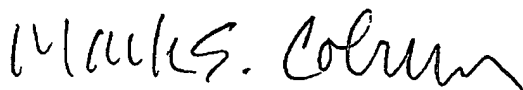
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent No. 6,989,997  
Our Ref. VTIP 02-060

Dear Sir/Madam:

As assignee of record, we are no longer entitled to small entity status under the subject patent. We paid the 3.5 year maintenance fee today as small entity status (see attached statement). A payment to make up the difference in the 3.5 year maintenance fee between small and large entity is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark S. Coburn  
President

Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center

2200 Kraft Drive, Suite 1050 • Blacksburg, VA 24060 • Phone (540) 951-9374 • Fax: (540) 951-5292 • [www.vtip.org](http://www.vtip.org)

PTO/SB/47 (03-09)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**"FEE ADDRESS" INDICATION FORM**

Address to:  
Mail Stop M Correspondence  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Fax to:  
571-273-6500

- OR -

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The issue fee must have been paid for application(s) listed on this form. In addition, only an address represented by a Customer Number can be established as the fee address for maintenance fee purposes (hereafter, fee address). A fee address should be established when correspondence related to maintenance fees should be mailed to a different address than the correspondence address for the application. **When to check the first box below:** If you have a Customer Number to represent the fee address. **When to check the second box below:** If you have no Customer Number representing the desired fee address, in which case a completed Request for Customer Number (PTO/SB/125) must be attached to this form. For more information on Customer Numbers, see the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 403.

For the following listed application(s), please recognize as the "Fee Address" under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.363 the address associated with:

☒ Customer Number: **78874**

OR

☐ The attached Request for Customer Number (PTO/SB/125) form.

PATENT NUMBER (if known)	APPLICATION NUMBER
6,989,997	

Completed by (check one):

☐ Applicant/Inventor

Mark S. Coburn  
Signature

☐ Attorney or Agent of record \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reg. No.)

Mark S. Coburn  
Typed or printed name

☐ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.  
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.  
(Form PTO/SB/96)

(540) 951-9378  
Requester's telephone number

☒ Assignee recorded at Reel 014695 Frame 0294

July 14, 2009

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☐ Total of \_\_\_\_\_ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.363. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 5 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND COMPLETE D FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop M Correspondence, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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DATE PRINTED  
07/14/2009

WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON & COOK,  
11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD  
SUITE 340  
RESTON VA 20190

**MAINTENANCE FEE STATEMENT**

According to the records of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the maintenance fee and any necessary surcharge have been timely paid for the patent listed below. The "PYMT DATE" column indicates the payment date (i.e., the date the payment was filed).

The payment shown below is subject to actual collection. If the payment is refused or charged back by a financial institution, the payment will be void and the maintenance fee and any necessary surcharge unpaid.

Direct any questions about this statement to: Mail Stop M Correspondence, Director of the USPTO, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

PATENT NUMBER	FEE AMT	SUR CHARGE	PYMT DATE	U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	PATENT ISSUE DATE	APPL. FILING DATE	PAYMENT YEAR	SMALL ENTITY?	ATTY DKT NUMBER
6,989,997	\$490.00	\$0.00	07/14/09	10/603,097	01/24/06	06/25/03	04	YES	VTIP 02-060